

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/973,743.

A Notice of Noncompliance Response, dated August 16, 2004, was received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The claims have been amended to indicate that claims 1-7, 12-13 and 15-18 are to be "canceled" - not "withdrawn" - from the application.

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



William G. Kratz, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/nrp

Atty. Docket No. **011118A**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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